



1 • The Kingdoms and King Nebuchadnezzar

- The King of the Babylonian Empire, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream about a statue with four parts. God revealed the dream
 and its meaning to the prophet Daniel. Daniel was a captive from Israel who served as an official in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace.
 The statue represented four kingdoms (the first is Babylonia). Each would eventually be replaced by an inferior kingdom. However,
 the fourth kingdom would be replaced by the eternal Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:5-45).
- 63 years later, Daniel had a vision about four great beasts (a lion with wings, a bear, a leopard with four heads, and a terrifying powerful beast with 10 horns). This vision has a similar meaning to Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In Daniel's vision God takes away the power of the beasts. The "son of man," Jesus Christ, is given all authority and sets up the everlasting kingdom (Daniel 7).

THE STATUE

DANIEL'S VISION

THE KINGDOMS

(Daniel 2)

(Daniel 7)

(Daniel 2, 7, and 8)

HEAD (FINE GOLD)

The golden head of the statue represents the kingdom of Babylon which God gave King Nebuchadnezzar to rule. (Daniel 2:37, 38)

LION with Wings of an Eagle

In Scripture, Nebuchadnezzar is compared to both the lion (Jeremiah 4:7; 50:44) and the eagle (Ezekiel 17:3, 11, 12). Images of lions with eagle's wings were popular in Babylonian architecture and currency. (Daniel 7:4)

BABYLONIA

605 BC - 539 BC King Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar

CHEST AND ARMS (SILVER)

The silver chest and arms of the statue represent the kingdoms of Media and Persia, which is the second power that would rise after Babylon falls. (Daniel 2:39, Daniel 7:5)

BEAR with Three Ribs on its Mouth

The bear was raised on one side, which may illustrate the dominance of Persia over Media. The three ribs in its mouth may illustrate the three major empires Persia conquered. The bear is commanded to devour much flesh, which may be a reference to Persia's military expansion through the ancient world. (Daniel 7:5)

MEDO-PERSIA

539 BC - 332 BC King Cyrus to King Darius III

BELLY AND THIGHS (BRONZE)

The bronze belly and thighs of the statue represent the kingdom of Greece. This third kingdom would rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39).

LEOPARD with Four Wings and Four Heads

The leopard represents the kingdom of Greece. The wings might illustrate the speed of Alexander the Great's conquest. The four heads might represent the division of Alexander's kingdom into four provinces after Alexander's death. (Daniel 7:6)

GREECE

332 BC - 63 BC Alexander the Great and the Four Divisions

LEGS (IRON)

The fourth kingdom would be strong as iron and would break, smash and crush things.

FEET (IRON AND CLAY)

The fourth kingdom would be a divided kingdom, different from the others, both strong and weak. This kingdom would have a mixture of people who are not united. (Daniel 2:41-43; 7:23)

BEAST with Iron Teeth and Ten Horns

The terrifying beast is also a reference to a major kingdom. Many scholars suggest this to be the Roman empire. The beast's ten horns are ten kings that would rise from this kingdom. After them, another king (the "little horn") would rise, speak against God, and persecute God's people. It is during the reign of this king when God would set up his everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 7:7, 8)

A DIVIDED KINGDOM

Many scholars believe this kingdom to be Rome. Rome occupied Jerusalem in 63 BC and was still in power at the time of Jesus. (Luke 2:1)

STONE Cut from a Mountain

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and struck the statue on its feet and broke it to pieces. Then it became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This symbolizes Jesus Christ initiating the kingdom of God that will reign forever and will never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45)

SON OF MAN (Jesus Christ)

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

—Daniel 7:13, 14, 27

THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF GOD

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Babylonian and Persian Empires: Then and Now (612 BC - 332 BC) • 2

Babylonian Kingdom

Persian (Median) Kingdom

Arabian Desert

Babylonian Empire 612 BC-539 BC



Persian Empire 539 BC-332 BC

Ancient cities that exist today are <u>underlined in red</u> on the modern overlays.



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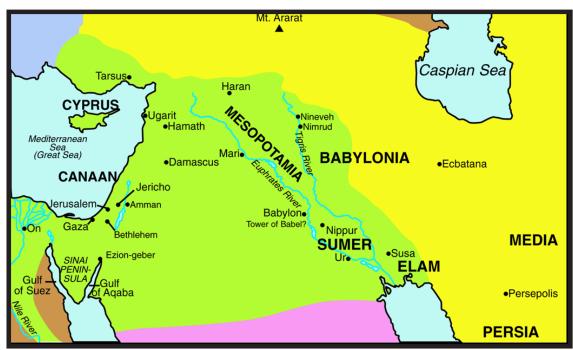
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Babylonian and Persian Empires: Then and Now (612 BC - 332 BC) • 3

Babylonian Kingdom Persian (Median) Kingdom

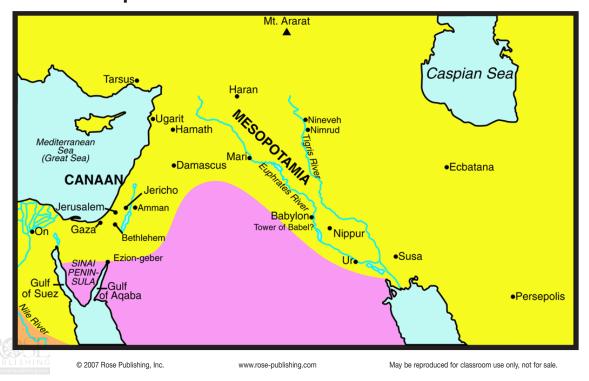
Arabian Desert

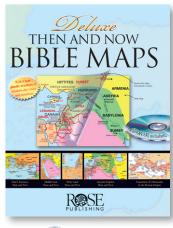
Babylonian Empire 612 BC-539 BC



Persian Empire 539 BC-332 BC

Ancient cities that exist today are <u>underlined</u> in red on the modern overlays.





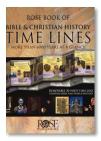


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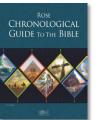




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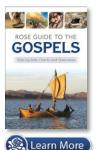




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